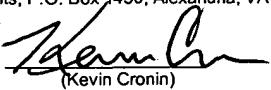


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: June 2, 2004

Signature:



(Kevin Cronin)

1762
JRW

Docket No.: 022723-0017

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Stephen J. Mashl, et al.

Confirmation No: 7870

Application No.: 09/817,757

Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: March 26, 2001

Examiner: M. Padgett

For: CORROSION RESISTANT COMPONENT
AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING SAME

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated March 3, 2004 and is timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment in the required fees to our Deposit Account No. 141449 under order No. 22723-17.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has included a listing of pending claims. No amendments have been made.